

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2008 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Jonathan P. Fidler

Project Number

J0608

Project Title

Metal vs. Classical

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

My project was a test to see if heavy metal has negative effects, both physical and mental, on people.

Methods/Materials

I had people listen to heavy metal and classical music and recorded their blood pressure, heart rate, then had them complete a math test and do an inkblot test and repeated the procedure with classical music. In my tests i used a cd player with the selcted music and a blood pressure monitor.

Results

Through my tests I have discovered that in most cases heavy metal music has negative effects on the listener. Overall performance on the math test dropped and heart rate and blood pressure rose. Also most interesting was the results of the inkblot tests. Immediately after listening to the music, subjects were shown inkblots and asked to answer several questions. The inkblots shown directly after listening to heavy metal music, usually inkblots 1 to around 6, tended to appear more frightening or violent and became more benign as more time passed while not listening to the music.

Conclusions/Discussion

I can conclude that the effect of heavy metal music depends somewhat on the listener, but in all cases the test subjects exhibited some negative effects. In comparison, when the subjects listened to classical music, all the effects of heavy metal were reversed. Test scores went up, and blood pressure dropped and the responses to the inkblots became more positive.

Summary Statement

A test to see the contrast of the effects of classical and heavy metal music on humans.

Help Received

Mother helped to design the poster board.